

**STATE MINING AND GEOLOGY BOARD****DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

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**Kathy Lund**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Consideration of Mineral Resources Lands**  
**of Statewide or Regional Significance**  
**Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region**  
**Riverside, California**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) proposes to hold a public hearing in order to consider adoption of regulations to designate, and terminate, designated areas of statewide or regional significance and specify the boundaries thereof, for mineral resources lands located in the Palm-Springs Production-Consumption Region, Riverside County, in accordance with the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA), pursuant to Public Resources Code Division 2, Chapter 9, Article 6, Section 2790.

**BACKGROUND**

The State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB), based on recommendations from the State Geologist and public input, designates, or terminates the designation there of, mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance within California. At its December 13, 2007, regular business meeting, the SMGB accepted California Geological Survey (CGS) Special Report 198 which updated information previously presented in a classification report on Portland cement concrete-grade (PCC) aggregate in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption (P-C) Region completed in 1985. The previous report was published by the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG; now CGS) as Special Report 159 (SR 159) – *Mineral Land Classification: Aggregate Materials in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region*.

SR 159, Part VI assisted the SMGB in a subsequent process called *designation*. Designation is the formal recognition by the SMGB of lands containing mineral resources of regional or statewide significance that are needed to meet the demands of the future. The SMGB's designation of lands in the Palm Springs P-C Region was published in 1989 as SMARA Designation Report No. 10.

On April 10, 2008, the SMGB Mineral and Geologic Resources Committee (Committee) accepted the recommendations set forth by the State Geologist for designation of mineral resources lands of regional or statewide economic significance in the Palm Springs Production-Consumption Region, Riverside County, based on the updated information in Special Report 198.

The SMGB seeks recommendations of concerned federal, state, and local agencies, educational institutions, civic and public interest organizations, and private interest organizations, and private organizations and individuals, in the proposed actions.

### **CANDIDATE AREAS FOR DESIGNATION**

The Candidate areas under consideration for designation are shown on Plates 1 and 2 (attached to this public notice). Each Sector, or group of Sectors, described below, meets or exceeds the SMGB's threshold economic value, and each Sector may be considered for designation as an area of regional or statewide significance by the SMGB pursuant to Article 6, Section 2790 *et seq.* (SMARA).

#### **Candidates for Designation -- Areas Reclassified MRZ-2a:**

New information obtained since the publication of the 1988 Mineral Land Classification study has resulted in the reclassification of some areas originally classified MRZ-3 in that study. The areas reclassified as MRZ-2a for PCC-grade aggregate are in the area around previously designated Sector G. The reclassified areas are identified as Sector K. Candidate Sector K has eight sub-sectors (K-1 through K-8) that border the existing Sector G on the northwestern, northern, and eastern sides. A single mining/construction company owns all or part of sub-sectors K-1 through K-8. Therefore, estimated tonnage of aggregate present in these sectors is proprietary and is not listed below. However, each of the Sectors below, except as noted, meets or exceeds the threshold value as established by the SMGB. At the time of the updated classification study, that threshold value amounted to approximately 1.5 million tons of aggregate. Both unpermitted and permitted aggregate resources contained in these Sectors are considered proprietary because the property is owned by a single company.

Candidate Sector K-1 (112 acres) is in Sections 28, and 33, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded to the north by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault near the base of the south flank of the Indio Hills. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the east. On the south it is bounded by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-2.

Candidate Sector K-2 (125 acres) is in Section 33, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded to the north by a utility corridor, which separates it from



Sector K-1. On the south, it is bounded a second utility corridor separating it from Sector K-3.

Candidate Sector K-3 (152 acres) is in Section 33, T4S, R7E; and Section 3, T5S, R7E, SBBM. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the east. It is bounded to the north by a utility corridor, which separates it from Sector K-2. On the south, it is bounded by agricultural land of the Coachella Valley.

Candidate Sector K-4 (136 acres) is in Sections 27, and 34, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is bounded on the south by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault.

Candidate Sector K-5 (34 acres) is in Sections 33, 34, and 35, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is adjacent to the original Sector G on the south. On the north, it is bounded by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault, which separates it from Sector K-4.

Candidate Sector K-6 (6 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, east of the original Sector G. It is bounded by the Mission Creek Branch of the San Andreas Fault on the north and a utility corridor to the south. Sector K-6 has less than the threshold amount of material within it; however it could be mined in conjunction with Sector G.

Candidate Sector K-7 (16 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, southeast of the original Sector G. Utility corridors separate it from Sector K-6 to the north and Sector K-8 to the west.

Candidate Sector K-8 (9 acres) is in Section 2, T5S, R7E, SBBM, southeast of the original Sector G. A utility corridor separates it from Sector K-7 to the east. Sector K-8 has less than the threshold amount of material within it; however it could be mined in conjunction with Sector G.

Candidates for Designation -- Areas Reclassified MRZ-2b:

New information obtained since the publication of 1989 SMGB Designation Report No. 10 has resulted in two areas in the eastern Palm Springs P-C Region being reclassified as MRZ-2b for PCC-grade aggregate. These areas are identified as Candidate Sector I and Candidate Sector J (sub-sectors J-1 through J-6).

Candidate Sector I (683 acres) is in Sections 12 and 13, T5S, R8E; and Sections 7, 8, 9, and 18, T5S, R9E, SBBM, and includes that

part of Thermal Canyon wash within the Palm Springs P-C Region. It is south of Interstate Highway 10, east of the Coachella Canal, and four miles northeast of the community of Thermal. Sector I is approximately one mile north of the previously designated Sectors H-1, H-2, and H-3 (Plate 2, Inset Map A). The reclassification to MRZ-2b is based on information obtained from the Riverside County Department of Transportation sand and gravel mine recently developed on a 160-acre parcel in Thermal Canyon wash. This Sector contains an estimated 25 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J (sub-sectors J-1 through J-6; 5,364 acres) is located near the community of Indio Hills. They include deposits formed as a series of coalescing alluvial fans deposited from material discharged from canyons cut northward into the Little San Bernardino Mountains. The reclassification to MRZ-2b is based on the strong similarity of the deposits in Sector J with the high-quality deposits currently being mined in the adjacent (previously designated) Sector E and Sector F. Local material apparently was used in cast-concrete structures associated with the Colorado River Aqueduct. These structures, though now washed out of place, remain intact. Sector J (sub-sectors J-1 through J-6) contains an estimated 373 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-1 (2,633 acres) is north of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 20, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, T3S, R7E; and Sections 3 and 5, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-2 to the south by Dillon Road. This sub-sector contains an estimated 191 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-2 (103 acres) is west of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 31, and 32, T3S, R7E; and Section 5, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-1 on the north by Dillon Road and from Sector J-3 on the south by a utility corridor. This sub-sector contains an estimated 6 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-3 (1,135 acres) is west of the community of Indio Hills in Section 36, T3S, R6E; Section 1, T4S, R6E; and Sections 5, and 6, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-2 to the north by a utility corridor. This sub-sector contains an estimated 83 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.



Candidate Sector J-4 (1,086 acres) is north and east of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-5 to the southeast by a public road and residential development in the community of Indio Hills. This sub-sector contains an estimated 71 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-5 (148 acres) is east of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 13, and 24, T4S, R7E; and Section 19, T4S, R8E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-4 to the northwest by a public road and urbanization in the community of Indio Hills, and from Sector J-6 to the south by Dillon Road and a utility easement. Sector J-5 is contiguous with Sector E-1, to the southeast. This sub-sector contains an estimated 7 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidate Sector J-6 (260 acres) is southeast of the community of Indio Hills in Sections 13 and 24, T4S, R7E, SBBM. It is separated from Sector J-5 to the north by Dillon Road and a utility easement. Sector J-6 is contiguous with Sector E-2, to the southeast. This sub-sector contains an estimated 15 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources.

Candidates for Termination of Designation Status:

Six areas (in five Sectors) are identified as potential candidates for termination of designation status due to high-value incompatible land use developments. Five areas, in Sectors A-3, B-2, B-3, and B-5 in the San Gorgonio Pass, are sites where large, high-value wind-driven electrical generators have been constructed. One area, Sector C in Little Morongo Canyon near Desert Hot Springs, is the site of recently constructed urban development and flood control infrastructure. These sites, located in the western part of the Palm Springs P-C Region, are shown on Plate 1. In addition to the areas described below, areas in Sectors E-1, E-2, and F are now underlain by a utility corridor carrying fiber optic cables. These areas amount to 100 acres containing 27 million tons of aggregate. Because these cables may be relocatable, allowing for the mining of the underlying aggregate, CGS is not recommending termination of designation status for these utility corridors at this time.

Candidate for Termination of Designation Sector A-3 (146 acres) is south of Interstate Highway 10 in Section 13, T3S, R2E, SBBM. Construction of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred. It is likely that this development will

preclude the future mining of the 38 million tons of resources contained in Sector A-3.

Candidate for Termination of Designation - Sector B-2 (167 acres) is south of Interstate Highway 10 in Section 18, T3S, R4E, SBBM. Construction of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred in the western two-thirds (167 acres) of Sector B-2. It is likely that this development will preclude future mining of the approximately 36 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in that part of Sector B-2.

Candidates for Termination of Designation - Sector B-3 (401 acres) is in Sections 16, 18, 19 and 21, T3S, R4E, SBBM, south of Interstate Highway 10 and north of the main line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Construction of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred in the western half (300 acres) and eastern sixth (101 acres) of this Sector. It is likely that this high-value development will preclude future mining of the approximately 86 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in those parts of Sector B-3.

Candidate for Termination of Designation - Sector B-5 (86 acres) is south of Interstate Highway 10 in Section 16, T3S, R4E, SBBM. Development of wind-driven electrical generators and associated infrastructure has occurred on approximately 86 acres of Sector B-5. It is likely that this high-value development will preclude the future mining of approximately 15 million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in the Sector.

Candidate for Termination of Designation - Sector C (11 acres) in Section 24, T2S, R4E, SBBM in Little Morongo Canyon north of the City of Desert Hot Springs. The southern one-quarter of Sector C (11 acres) has undergone development in the form of residential construction and associated infrastructure (roads, flood control improvements, etc.) thus precluding future mining from this portion of the Sector. The one million tons of PCC-grade aggregate resources contained in the southern one-quarter of the sector are considered lost to urbanization.



## **PUBLIC HEARING AND WRITTEN COMMENT**

The SMGB has scheduled a public hearing on this proposed action and to receive comments for March 11, 2009. The public hearing will take place in the Plaza Salons 1 & 2 at the Hyatt Regency Suites-Palm Springs, 285 N. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs, CA 92262, at 2:00 P.M. A map to the Hyatt Regency Suites-Palm Springs can be viewed at: [www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb](http://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb).

The hearing facility will be barrier free in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. At the hearing, any person may present statements or arguments orally or in writing relevant to the proposed action. The SMGB requests, but does not require, that persons who make oral comments at the hearing also submit a written copy of their testimony. Comments can also be provided in writing up to ten days prior to the scheduled meeting.

## **CONTACT PERSON**

Inquiries concerning the substance of the adopted regulation should be directed to:

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Candidate Areas for Updated  
Designation in the Palm Springs  
Production-Consumption Region,  
Riverside County, California  
(Western Area)

March 2008



**Palm Springs P-C Region**

**Sectors Designated by the State Mining and Geology Board (1989)**

**Candidate Areas for Termination of Designation Status**

Areas within sectors with Land Use Incompatible with Mining

Unzoned Areas within Sectors

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## California Geological Survey

Candidate Areas for Updated Designation in the Palm Springs  
Production-Consumption Region, Riverside County, California  
(Eastern Area)

By  
Lawrence L. Busch  
March 2008

